

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05
OES-07 OMB-01 SCS-06 CA-01 H-01 L-03 /090 W
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R 252016Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8167
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
DEA MIAMI
DEA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, HA, BW
SUBJ: TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDER FOUND GUILTY OF MARIJUANA
TRAFFICKING

1. IN THE FIRST JUDGMENT HANDED DOWN IN CURRENT SERIES
OF DRUG TRIALS, SIMON NATHANIAL (AKA "JACQUES") RIGBY OF
THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS WAS CONVICTED OF TRAFFICKING IN
MARIJUANA. HE WAS FINED \$20,000 AND SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS
IMPRISONMENT, PLUS 10 ADDITIONAL YEARS SHOULD HE FAIL TO PAY
THE FINE.

2. THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER PRIVATELY
THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT IS EMPOWERED TO
ORDER RIGBY'S DEPORTATION, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT TIGBY
WILL BE DEPORTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN LIEU OF SERVING THE
PRISON SENTENCE, PROVIDED HIS FINE IS PAID.

3. RIGBY WAS ARRESTED ON APRIL 24, 1977 WHEN HAITIAN CUSTOMS
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OFFICIALS FOUND A QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA CONCEALED IN A
BONGO DRUM HE HAD CARRIED ON A FLIGHT FROM KINGSTON TO
PORT AU PRINCE. ALSO ARRESTED IN THE INCIDENT WAS LEON WILSON,
A MEMBER OF THR TURKS AND CAICOS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.
WILSON WAS RELEASED ON MAY 25, 1977 FOLLOWING PROTESTS
FROM BRITISH DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES. (SEE CLASSIFIED
EMBASSY PAP MEMO OF MAY 31, 1977.)

4. FIVE AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE DECEMBER 1975 NARCOTIC DRUG CONTROL LAW UNDER WHICH RIGBY WAS CONVICTED. TRIALS FOR ALL BUT ONE OF THE FIVE HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND THE ACCUSED ARE AWAITING VERDICTS. THE TRIAL OF THE LAST AMERICAN IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED THIS WEEK. THE SEVERITY OF RIGBY'S SENTENCE IS INDICATIVE OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE GOH VIEWS NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. SOME HAITIAN LAWYERS ADD THAT GOH BELIEVES ITS SEVERITY IN THESE MATTERS REFLECTS WISHES OF THE USG.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT VERDICTS IN TRIALS INVOLVING AMERICANS WHEN THEY ARE DELIVERED.
JONES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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